

identity of the two fishes as soon as they have made the comparison.—*Comptes Rendus*, January 23, 1865, p. 152.

*Description of the Egg of Parra gallinacea.*

By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S. &c.

The ground-colour of the egg of this species is of a dark shining raw-sienna tint, over which are traced in various directions a series of broad and fine hair-like contorted lines of brownish black, which, by occasionally uniting laterally and crossing each other, form here and there large blotches. Although these markings are of the same character on each egg, they are somewhat differently distributed: thus, on one of the two I possess, they are more numerous at the larger end, and absent at the smaller; while on the other they are more abundant at the smaller, and less so at the larger extremity. The eggs are one inch and an eighth in length by seven eighths of an inch in breadth. They are, moreover, rendered remarkably conspicuous by the singularly pointed form of the smaller end, and by their small size as compared with that of the bird, but above all by the form and disposition of the markings, which are as if traced by the hand of a person who had amused himself by attempting to cover the surface with fantastic streaks, blotches, and contorted curves from end to end.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Dec. 13, 1864.

*On a new Form of Brachiolaria.* By M. SARS.

M. Sars has discovered a new Echinodermatous larva belonging to the Brachiolarian type. It presents a greater affinity to the *Bipinnariæ* than those observed by Johannes Müller. Its development is also very similar to that of the *Bipinnariæ*,—the Starfish in course of formation presenting the same relations of position and union with the body of the larva. There are, however, some differences. In the *Bipinnariæ* the rudiment of the ambulacral system makes its appearance very early, in the form of a rosette of five cæca; in the *Brachiolaria*, on the contrary, these cæca are not brought together in a group, but distant from each other, and their circle is open on one side. This condition persists until after the formation of the perisoma, with its five arms and their spines.

The *Brachiolaria* are really distinguished from the *Bipinnariæ* only by the presence of their contractile arms at the anterior extremity. M. Sars has ascertained that these organs, whose function has hitherto been doubtful, act as an apparatus of attachment. They may be compared with the very similar organs of attachment of the larvæ of *Echinaster sanguinolentus* and *Asteracanthion Mülleri*. Thus these various types of larvæ, so different in appearance, are united in an unexpected manner.—*Videnskabselskabets Forhandlingar*, 1863; *Abstract in Bibl. Univ.*, May 1865, *Bull. Sci.*, p. 62.

*Investigation of the Structure of the Encephalon of Fishes, and of the Homological Signification of its different Parts.* By M. HOLLARD.

The type of the encephalon in Fishes is inferior to that prevailing in Mammalia, not only in its general development, but also in the absence of several organs. This type is not only inferior, but it is